

me from visiting the locality in subsequent years. After a long interval, on 26 November, 1895, I found such another breeding-haunt only little more than a mile from the Yngleses head-station, where the associates of the Spoonbill this time were the White Egret (*Ardea egretta* Gm.) and the Dark Night-Heron (*Nycticorax obscurus* Bp.)—see account under these species. The Spoonbills were in a majority and might be numbered at from five hundred to a thousand pairs. Their eggs were all fresh (or nearly so), whilst the other two species were hatched out. The Spoonbills' nests were very close together, sometimes hardly a yard apart; otherwise, similar in material and construction to those of the Cisñeros colony. After nesting the two following years, this colony passed out of existence.

I have taken one clutch of five eggs, but the usual number is three or four; these are of a very irregular shape, but generally elongated. The ground-colour is a dirty white, with rusty-red markings and (occasionally) some violaceous blotches. As a rule, these are evenly distributed all over the eggs, and only in some cases increase towards the larger end.

Whilst the average measurement is  $65 \times 43$  mm., individual specimens may vary from 70 to 61 mm. on the long axis and 46 to 41 mm. in diameter.

[To be continued.]

## XXVI.—Obituary.

JOHN CHAMBERS McLEAN.

WE learn with deep regret that Mr. J. C. McLean of Waiamu was accidentally drowned when crossing a river near his home in the Poverty Bay district of the Northern Island of New Zealand in December last. The river was in flood and he was washed off his horse by the strong current, and the mackintosh he was wearing catching in a snag under the water, he was unable to free himself though a very good swimmer.

Born in 1872, Mr. McLean was the eldest son of the late Alan McLean of Duart, Havelock North, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, and grandson of the late John Chambers, who owned the Te Mata estate in the same district and who was a well known and highly respected pioneer. He was educated privately and at Wellington College, New Zealand, and afterwards lived for some years on his father's station, Waikohu, near Gisborne; subsequently he acquired some property of his own in the same district.

From his early youth McLean, who lived in a somewhat unsettled part of the country where there still existed a good deal of the aboriginal bush, was deeply interested in the bird-life of his native land and specially in those native species which have become so scarce since the introduction of the British birds into New Zealand. These have taken the place of the native species, which are now only to be found in the more remote and unsettled districts.

So long ago as 1889 McLean sent a note to 'The Ibis' on the breeding-place of the Spotted Shag (*Phalacrocorax punctatus*) at Cape Kidnappers near Napier. This was followed by other contributions in 1892, 1894, and 1907, dealing with the rarer bush-birds met with by him in the Gisborne and neighbouring districts. With this last contribution there was sent to the Natural History Museum a collection of skins, among which Mr. Ogilvie-Grant found a new Fan-tailed Flycatcher which he named *Pseudogerygone macleani* after the collector.

To the eleventh volume of the 'Emu' (1911-12) Mr. McLean sent a long paper of field-observations on the Bush-birds of New Zealand, and both this and the papers in 'The Ibis' were illustrated with photographs of the birds with their nests and eggs, taken by Mr. McLean, as he was very skilful with the camera.

Mr. McLean was elected a member of the Union in 1897, and his death at the comparatively early age of forty-six is a great loss to the limited band of New Zealand ornithologists.

## JOSEPH WIGLESWORTH.

We regret to learn that Dr. Wiglesworth met with a fatal accident on or about May 16 last at Hurlstone Point in Somerset. He was staying at Porlock Weir, and on that morning went to Hurlstone Point to examine a Peregrine's nest on the cliffs. Nothing more was heard of him till two days later when his body was found at the foot of the cliff by a coastguard. From the marks on the body it is supposed that in climbing the cliff Dr. Wiglesworth must have missed his footing and fallen to the beach below.

Born in 1853, Wiglesworth was educated for the medical profession at Liverpool and St. Thomas's Hospital in London. He qualified in 1876 and obtained his degree of M.D. Univ. Lond. in 1880. He was a specialist in mental diseases, and was for a period President of the Psychological Association and Lecturer on Mental Diseases at the University of Liverpool. For over thirty years he held the post of Medical Superintendent of the Lancashire County Asylum at Rainhill.

A few years ago he retired and settled at Winscombe in Somerset, and since that time has been devoting himself to the study of the birds of Somersetshire with a view to preparing a work on the subject. Bird-life was his favourite study, and all his spare time was devoted to it.

His publications, in addition to many valuable professional papers and books on mental diseases, include an inaugural address on Flightless Birds, published in the Transactions of the Liverpool Biological Society in 1899, and a little work on St. Kilda and its Birds (Liverpool, 1903).

Since settling in Somersetshire he had written two studies on the birds of that county—one on the status of the Little Owl, the other on Somerset Heronries, both published in the Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society and both noticed in our pages, the last on p. 553 of the present number.

Dr. Wiglesworth was elected a member of the Union in 1898, and his death is a great loss to Somersetshire ornithology.